structure headed by Army to combat insurgency in the North-East region.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Assam has voiced his reservation over this order; and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) To Synergise the counter insurgency operations in Assam, a Strategy Group at the State level headed by Chief Secretary and Comprising GOC IV Corps/Chief of Staff IV Corps/ Finance Secretary and Law Secretary, Government of Assam and senior representatives of para-military forces, State Police and Intelligence Agencies has been set up to work out broad strategies and policy coordination. For operational purposes a Unified Headquarters has been set up under the Chairmanship of GOC IV Corps.

(c) No, Sir.

Mass exodus due to Violence by Bodos

1875. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADENE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been mess exodus due to Bodo violence in Assam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to killings by Bodo groups, Government employees either seeking transfer or proceeding on long leave and business activities have totally paralysed; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) There has been no mass exodus due to Bodo Violence from Assam. However, the incidents of violence in Bodo areas of Assam has affected normal life. Government is taking all steps to improve the situation. Army and Central Paramilitary forces have been deployed in these areas on the request of the State Government. The RPF and the State Government have been asked to take special measures for protecting railway property, railway stations etc. A 'Strategy Group' headed by the Chief Secretary and a 'Unified Headquarters' headed by GOC IV Corps have been formed to synergise and coordinate the counter insurgency operations being conducted by Army, Central Paramilitary and State Armed Police. Regular review meetings are being conducted on the law and order situation at the State and Central Government levels.

Muslims arrested with RDX and Explosives

1876. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four Muslims had been arrested in Hyderabad in the 1st week of January, 1997 with RDX and detonators having Pakistani marks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Govenremnt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) According to information furnished by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, one Asgar Ali, s/o Azeez Ali, r/o Nalgonda and Mohd. Rahamatulla Khan Shuja, s/o Mohd. Faiz Ali Khan, r/o Sai Daba, Hyderabad were arrested by the Andhra Pradesh Police on 15.1.1997 and 2.75 Kg. of RDX, 3 Pakistani Service Genades and Detonators were recovered from them. Subsequently, their associates namely, Mohd. Abdul Bari, s/o Mohd. Abdul Aziz and Shaik Obaid, s/o Shakik Sayyed were also arrested by the Police. Cases have been registered against the accused